



News Release

Communications New Brunswick

Education

Minister shares vision of community schools with OIF member countries (08/03/28)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) - Education Minister Kelly Lamrock is being called upon to play an international leadership role in the development of an entrepreneurial education and culture in the countries of the Francophonie.

The minister took part in an international video conference entitled *Le Rendez-vous entrepreneurial de la francophonie* with the theme "*Le chemin parcouru*" (the road travelled). In it, Lamrock explained the community schools program as it is currently being developed in New Brunswick. The program is in response to the implementation of the education plan *When kids come first*, which aims to establish the best education system in Canada.

Representatives from Vietnam, Madagascar, France, Benin, Ivory Coast, Mauritius, Belgium, Haiti, Senegal, Quebec, and Guinea spoke with the minister following his address.

"One after another, the representatives of the different Francophonie countries wanted to know how we are incorporating community, private sector, and volunteer elements into the school and the classroom with a view to improving the children's outcomes in science, literacy, and numeracy," Lamrock said.

"They also noticed that our concept was aimed at children beginning at a very young age, and that many educational projects such as microbusinesses will help our young people discover the skills they really need in order to achieve their life plan through meaningful educational experiences that effectively incorporate the basic subjects."

The International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF) brings together 55 member states and governments and 13 observers distributed among the five continents, all of which use the French language. Spoken by 200 million people, French has the status of an official language either on its own or with other languages in 32 OIF member states and governments. The former president of Senegal, Abdou Diouf, has been the secretary general of the Francophonie since 2002.

"New Brunswick is a practical example of a government's commitment to developing an entrepreneurial culture, which requires the involvement of the school at every level," said Paul-A. Fortin, an internationally renowned Canadian leader in entrepreneurship. "I encourage Mr. Lamrock to take the lead internationally in the development of an entrepreneurial culture and education, and to build bridges between education departments in Canada and those in other countries of the Francophonie in an effort to develop an entrepreneurial culture through education for the better overall health of people and

communities."

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Fortin's role in the event was to react to the contributions of the different countries participating in this OIF conference.

The Government of New Brunswick already has about 20 community schools, including 11 francophone schools whose mission is to incorporate all of the subjects taught at school into a dynamic, educational partnership between the teacher, school, parents, public and private sectors, and volunteers from the community.

"If we want to give the young people of our province the best possible school system to put them on the road to self-sufficiency, we must unite, school by school, around the educational, cultural, and social mission of the community school, which involves a new alliance between the school and the community."

Lamrock is currently the chair of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) and is the incoming international chair of education ministers within CONFEMEN, the oldest institution of the Francophonie involved in promoting education, representing over 41 states and governments.

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